

Farm & Forest

Working together to conserve active farms and forests in King County

January 1998

Help for Managing your Forest

King County has three new foresters to provide technical assistance to rural property owners

Many rural property owners are interested in pursuing wildlife, recreation, watershed management, and timber management opportunities on their land. King County has hired three new foresters to help you with natural resource planning to protect, improve and enhance the natural resources of your property.

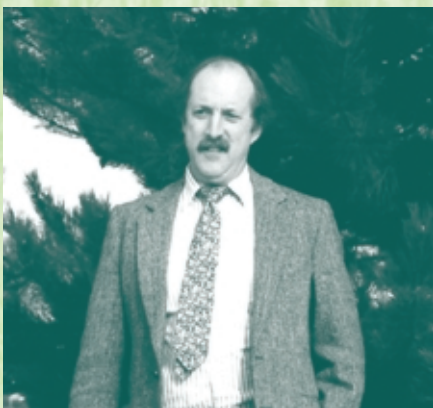


Bill Loeber (left) and Loy Jones (right)

Bill Loeber and **Loy Jones**, of King County Department of Natural Resources, will be glad to help you prepare forest stewardship plans and give advice on how to best carry them out. These two veteran foresters can advise you on a variety of forest management activities including planning, pre-commercial thinning, recreational trail layout, forest products marketing and general wildlife habitat enhancement. Bill and Loy's extensive experience in forest management can help you reach your land management goals. Loy and Bill will strive to provide a full range of forest management services. Loy concentrates on the Cedar River basin, while Bill covers the rest of King County.

Loy Jones brings to you 20 years of professional experience ranging from developing forest management and harvest plans to designing fire resistant landscaping. He looks forward to sharing his expertise with small rural land owners. Loy states "whatever we can do to encourage and assist in the retention and management of rural properties, rather than see them converted to subdivisions, is a very worthwhile endeavor." For assistance, please do not hesitate to call Loy at (206)296-7820.

Bill Loeber has 19 years of experience providing forestry services to private forest owners. His experience with preparing and implementing forest management plans can help you with the stewardship of the natural resources on your land. Bill's priority is to "incorporate ecological principles into the forest management planning process." To contact Bill, call (206)296-7821.



Dan Douglas

Dan Douglas works at King County's Department of Development and Environmental Services and can help landowners make sure they have the proper permits before they start clearing land for development or harvesting timber. He is particularly adept at forest management near homes. Dan can help you with your site planning as you begin to develop your property and provide advice on how to build in harmony with trees.

Dan will focus on helping landowners with their site planning needs, permitting, hazard tree evaluation, and "Forests in Your Own Backyard" educational series. He will primarily be working in the East Lake Sammamish, Issaquah Creek, and Cedar River basins.

Dan Douglas brings to King County residents more than 25 years of experience in arboriculture and horticulture with significant background in hazard tree evaluation. He can help you retain forested land as you develop your property and help you determine whether or not you need state and county permits. "I enjoy helping people work and live with the natural landscape." Dan can be reached at (206)296-7166.

Specialist Hired to Advise Farmers

Steve Evans joins the King County as a Farm Specialist to help this region's farmers understand the labyrinth of rules and regulatory requirements that apply to them. For the past 14 years, Steve was the Farm Specialist for the Pike Place Market. Most of his work was centered on direct marketing issues for small farmers. As part of the Farm Advisory Committee, Steve was involved in developing strategies for preserving farms through the King County Natural Resources Initiative.



The Farm Specialist position was created to help King County farmers:

- complete permit processes at the local, state, and federal level,
- learn about available tax incentive programs,
- market and promote their products.

Farmers face an extraordinary number of challenges and Steve is available to help wherever possible. Call Steve with your questions or concerns at **(206)296-7824**.

Funds Available to Help Livestock Owners

The King County Livestock Program has more than \$100,000 available to assist livestock owners in implementing Best Management Practices on King County farms. The money is available to livestock owners with farm management plans to help them comply with the King County Livestock Management Ordinance.

As many livestock owners are aware, the King County Council passed the Livestock Management Ordinance in December, 1993. The ordinance requires livestock owners to meet certain standards in the management of livestock manure and confinement areas and in maintaining stream and wetland setbacks. The ordinance gives livestock owners five years - until December 1998 - to meet these standards before any enforcement begins.

Another option available to landowners is to work with the King Conservation District (KCD) to develop and implement a farm management plan on their property. The King Conservation District's farm planning services are free to the landowner.

Call **the Conservation District** at **(425)226-4867** to tap into this excellent information source. For more information on the Ordinance or the cost-sharing program, please call the King County Livestock Programs office at **(206)205-9888**.



More Forest Land Preserved

Acquisition of two important rural forest properties is progressing. On August 15th of this year, the county took possession of 230 acres of the Ring Hill site near Duvall. This was followed by a 1700 acre Hobart acquisition on October 10th. Acquisition of the final 90 acres of the Ring Hill property is underway and the County plans to begin the public discussion of site management options in for both properties in 1998. See page 4 for property maps and for more information, contact **Jerry Balcom** at **(206)205-5668**.

Rural Forest Commission Established

On October 20, 1997, King County adopted Ordinance 12901, which establishes the Rural Forest Commission. The commission will advise the County in its efforts to preserve rural forestry. The membership selection process is now underway. For more information, contact **Kathy Creahan** at **(206)205-5621**.

Forestry Training Available

WSU Cooperative Extension King County is offering a six-week Forest Advisor Training Program for rural forest landowners and others interested in preserving rural forests. After completing the training in the practical aspects of forest stewardship, participants provide at least forty hours of forestry education or assistance to other landowners on a volunteer basis. The first training series is underway in the Carnation area; another series will be offered in the south county next spring. If you're interested in this series or other forestry workshops, call **Stephen Sax** at **(206)205-6380**.

Updates

Simplified Farm Building Permit Proposed

King County is proposing a cheaper and faster permit process for simple agricultural buildings. Processing will be faster because the applicants can get help from the King Conservation District for the completion of stormwater and sensitive areas information. The King Conservation District and King County are working through a pilot study before making a final proposal to the King County Council.

To be eligible for this permit, the property must be participating in the Current Use Taxation Program for agricultural lands (RCW 84.34). In addition, the structure must meet the definition of 'agricultural building' which means it must be designed and constructed to house farm implements, hay, grain, poultry, livestock or other horticultural products. It can't be a building where people live or work. For further information, please contact **Claire Dyckman** at (206)296-7279.



Transfer of Development Rights

The Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) project staff is continuing their investigation of practical amendments to the County's existing density transfer regulations. These changes could better protect rural farm and forestry lands, and would encourage residential growth in appropriate areas. (See the July 1997 issue of *Farm and Forest* for a feature article on the TDR Program.) The Final TDR Receiving Areas Plan was issued in late October and identifies the urban and rural areas best suited to the program. The Final Plan addresses the comments received on the Draft Plan and recommends adding two rural receiving areas—Hollywood Hill near Woodinville, and selected areas surrounding North Bend—to the urban receiving areas already identified in existing regulations.

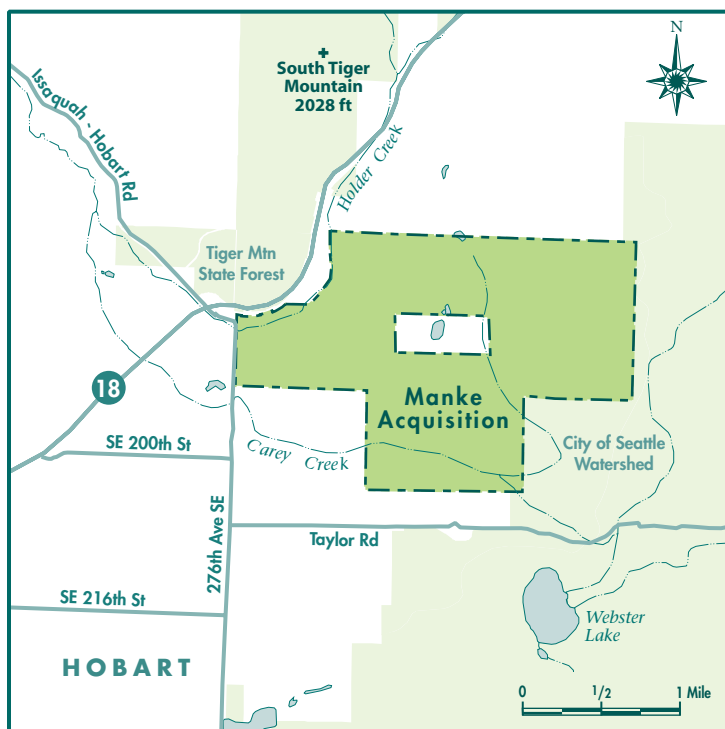
For a copy of the Final TDR Plan or to know whether your property qualifies as

a TDR Sending Site, call the TDR Information Line at **(206)205-9275**. Or write: TDR Program, King County Department of Natural Resources, 506 Second Avenue, Suite 720, Seattle, WA 98104. E-mail: TDR-DNR@metrokc.gov, FAX: (206)296-1473

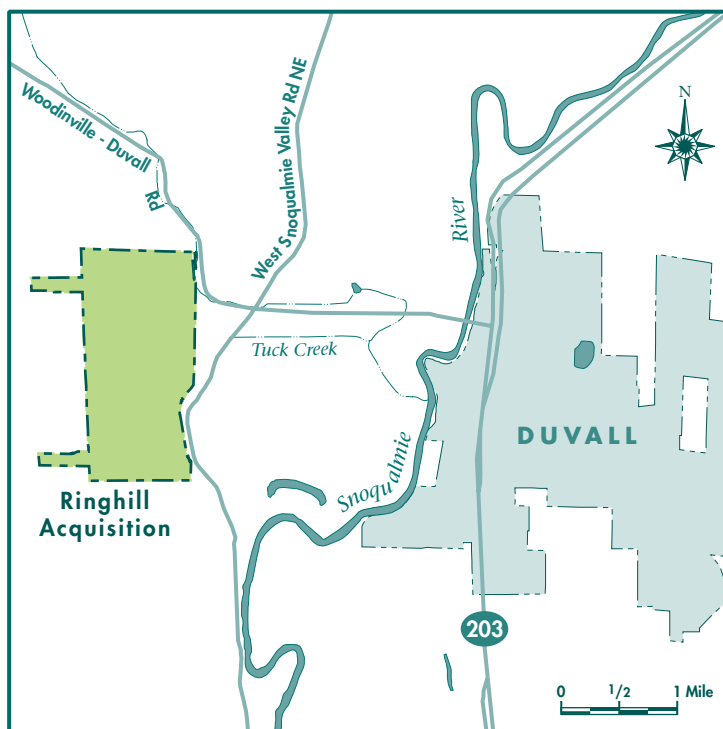
Changes in Forest Practices Act

If you are planning to harvest timber, you may be affected by recent changes to the Washington Forest Practices Act. King County will be responsible for administering all permits that are now classified as Class 4 General. Permits that remain under Washington DNR jurisdiction (Class 2 and 3) now require that owners sign a declaration that the property will remain in forestry, and that the land will be subject to a six year moratorium. This notice will be recorded on the property title. For more information, call **Susie Kalthorn** at King County DDES, **(206)296-7156**.

Maps of Recently Acquired Forestland



Hobart Forest: 1700 Acres



Ring Hill Forest: 322 Acres



KING COUNTY
Department of Natural Resources

Water and Land Resources Division
Resource Lands Section
506 Second Avenue, Suite 720
Seattle, WA 98104-2311

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Farm Surveys have been sent out

If you own a farm in King County, you should have recently received your copy of the King County farm survey. Survey results will provide valuable information to help keep the farming community viable in King County. In addition, the survey asks for success stories, problems, ideas and suggestions on how the County can do a better job in helping the farming community. If you haven't received your survey, please call the survey consultant at (206)224-4340 for your copy.